

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1, 3-14 and 17 remain in the application. Claims 2, 15 and 16 have been canceled.

Claims 1 and 7-15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hinton et al., U.S. Patent No. 2,537,896. However, the Examiner identified claims 2-6, 16 and 17 as being directed to patentable subject matter. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowed if amended or rewritten into independent form with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

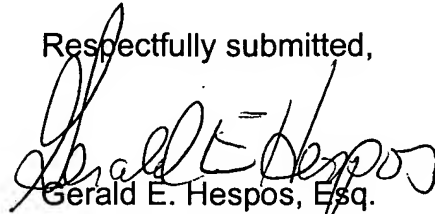
Allowable claim 2 had depended directly from claim 1. Claim has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. As a result, amended claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3-12 depended from claim 1 and should be allowed as well.

Allowable claim 16 had dependent from claim 15, which in turn had dependent from claim 14 and which then dependent from claim 13. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 15 and 16. The limitations of claim 14 have not been incorporated into independent claim 13, and are not believed necessary to distinguish over the prior art. It is submitted that amended claim 13 is in condition for allowance. Claims 14 and 17 dependent from claim 13 and should be allowed as well.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and

allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name.

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